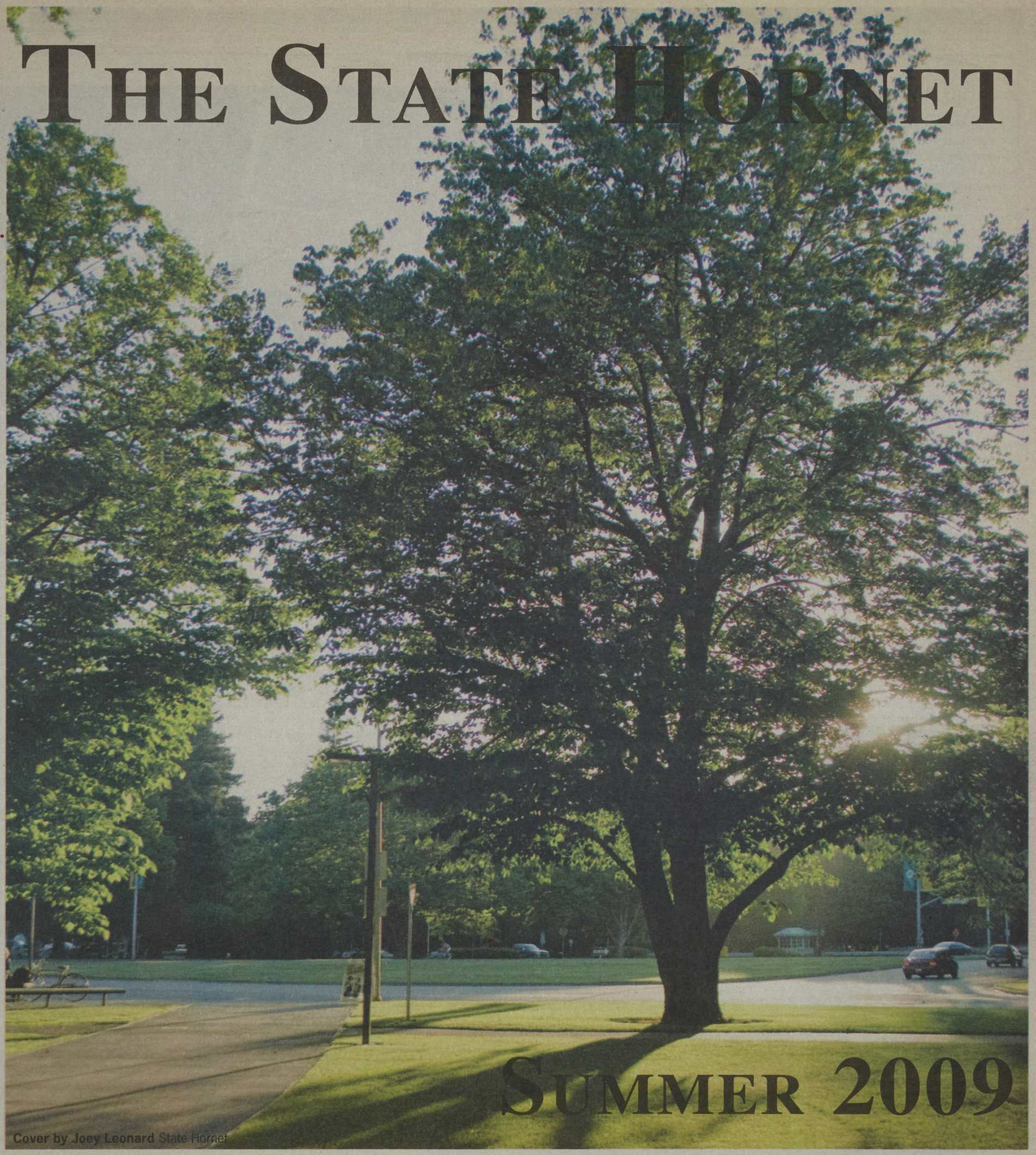
The State Hornet



Summer 2009

Cover by Joey Leonard State Hornet

SPRING SEMESTER IN REVIEW

Fees, cuts ahead for university

The California State University system faces budget cuts and cutbacks as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2010 budget proposal continues to lack funding for higher education.

Unfortunately for students, the 2009-10 CSU budget requires that student tuition fees will increase 10 percent again in fall 2009. According to a Jan. 9 press release from the CSU, this increase will add an additional $130 million in revenue for the CSU system, with a third of that money available for financial aid. The CSU budget will still fall $15.8 million above state funding, making additional system wide cuts more likely.

This year, the CSU system is facing a $66 million cut, President Alexander Gonzalez said. For Sacramento State, this could mean an additional $2.8 million in cuts.

"As a result, the CSU board has said let's cut enrollment," Gonzalez said. "We have become very good at enrollment management (at Sac State) and being efficient in how we recruit and retain our students."

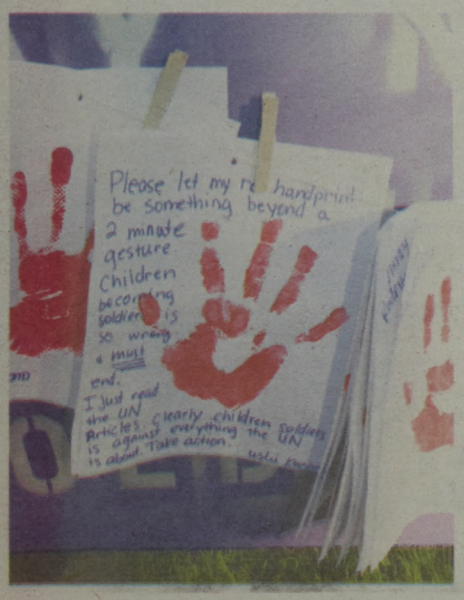
Gonzalez said that some campuses are not as successful and are impacted much more than Sac State by enrollment. Sac State uses several systems including methods of recruiting students and retaining students to achieve near-target enrollment.

Where many campuses have been cutting off freshmen enrollment, Sac State has only been hitting its target enrollment for a few semesters, Gonzalez said.

Hands protest child soldiers

Being "caught red-handed" took on a whole new meaning Feb. 3 when students painted their hands red to protest against the use of child soldiers worldwide.

Participants stamped their hand prints onto recycled syllabi and wrote letters, or just signed their name, as part of an international campaign to stop the abduction of children as young as 8 to be used in armed combat across the world. The campaign is known as Red Hand Day, and human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union have dipped their hands into the movement as well.



The Odyssey Mentor program, a part of the government department at Sac State, geared up for the event about three months in advance, ready to bring the issue to campus. The hand painting took place at a booth on the side of the Multi-Cultural Center in the Library, while a documentary about child soldiers was shown inside the center at two different times.

About 80 people painted and stamped their hands and the letters. They were later posted in the government department joined other red hand letters sent in from around the globe. All of the letters eventually ended up at the United Nations office with a letter explaining the campaign.

"I think that this is showing people on campus that simple actions can have international impacts," said event organizer Elizabeth Martinez, junior international affairs major.

"People often exaggerate the amount of work it takes to do one of these campaigns," she said.

Love, marriage rally at Capitol

A crowd of gay marriage supporters stood in front of the State Capitol on Feb. 16, umbrellas in hand, chanting "equality" in support of marriage rights for same-sex couples.

On March 5, the Court reviewed the validity of Proposition 8, which passed with 52.2 percent of the vote on election night, and issue its ruling 90 days later.

A Prop. 8 supporter drove around the Capitol with signs on his car that showed his support for the same-sex marriage ban.

Organizations made stands in front of the Capitol, such as the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center that serves lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual community in Sacramento with events and groups.

Darrell Steinberg, California State Senate president pro tem, strongly supported the "No on 8" effort, and said civil rights should never be put up to a vote.

"You can't deny love. You can't deny people their happiness. You can't deny the fact that the civil law must conform to the law of love," Steinberg said.

Steinberg doesn't see how the justices will rule in any other way because of the equal protection clause.

On May 15, 2008, the Court ruled that the right to marry without regard to sexual orientation is linked to the Equal Protection Clause of the California Constitution.

According to the clause, a person may not be deprived of life, liberty and property without due process of law, or denied equal protection of the law.

"If the ruling goes the other way, the fight will not be over; it will just be beginning," Steinberg said.



On May 26, the California Supreme Court upheld Proposition 8.

Gala, a night of celebration

On Feb. 20, Sac State's 4th annual Green and Gold Gala raised money for student veterans in the Troops to College program and honored actress and singer Carol Channing with an award for her contributions to the community.

The Troops to College program was created to provide scholarships and enhance support services to help the nation's veterans return home to civilian life and obtain a college education.

Gonzalez and George Crandell, the University Foundation chair, made a goal to raise $100,000 to finance Troops to College.

Gonzalez thought Channing's appearance would be even more helpful in asking people to support the returning veterans.

The gala was sponsored by businesses such as SMUD and Wells Fargo. Gonzalez said Wells Fargo gave $100,000 to Sac State to benefit programs such as the Honor's Program and Troops to College.

James Blackburn, Enrollment Management Services director, said the educational benefits will improve substantially Aug. 1, when the new GI Bill comes into effect.



According to Military.com, the new bill will pay full tuition, fees and a $1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies for veterans who served after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Channing, a three-time Tony award-winning singer and actress, and her husband Harold Kullijian spoke to the audience about how arts must be brought back to public schools to inspire students in reading, writing and arithmetic.

"Art is the catalyst for all education, and we have to start when children are little," Kullijian said.

Jazz Singers hit it big

The Sac State Jazz Singers are on an a cappella album put together by Ben Folds from the group Ben Folds Five. The ensemble, an advanced vocal group in the jazz music department, was one of the 18 groups chosen out of more than 200 applicants.

Kerry Marsh, jazz music professor and the ensemble adviser, heard about the competition through professional singer Don Gooding. The album will be composed of various a cappella groups from different universities singing their own versions of Folds' songs.

Marsh quickly made an arrangement of Folds' song, "Selfless, Cold and Composed." He slowed down the tempo and added some soulful flares to the original.

The 16 students in the ensemble practiced the song twice before recording it at their third practice. The vocal percussions, more commonly known as beat-boxing, were done by Antoinette "Butterscotch" Clinton. Clinton is the 2007 West Coast beat box champion, as well as a previous Sac State student. She was in the area to visit her parents from Los Angeles, and joined the group for the recording.

Kate Janzen, senior vocal jazz and classi-

see **Review** | page A5

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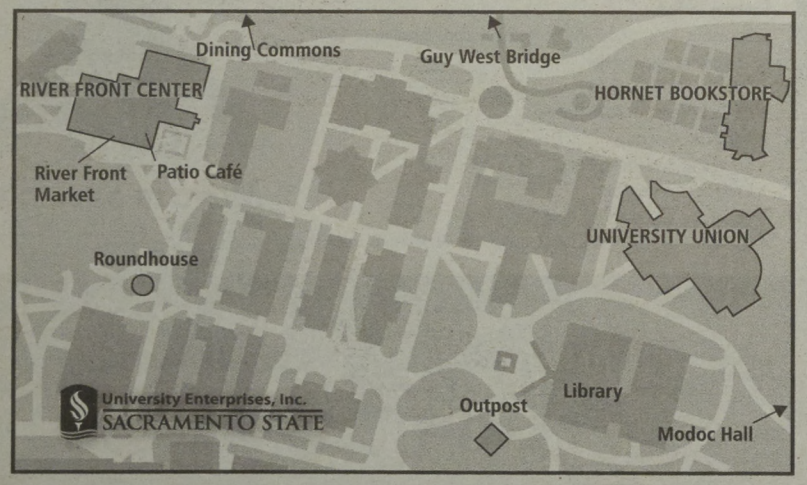
MOTHER INDIA EXPRESS – Closed for the summer

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SPRING SEMESTER IN REVIEW CONTINUED...

cal composition major, filmed the recording and posted it on YouTube. She said she received many responses and even one from Folds himself saying he loved the rendition and asking for a contact number.

"The re-harmonization is insane!" Folds said about the group in a blog entry on his MySpace page. "I seriously doubt we could have improved on them to have come limping in with our equipment for re-recording."

The group was disappointed not to be able to meet Folds in person, but was more than satisfied with what they achieved.

All the groups, under Marsh's direction, won the top three places at the Reno Jazz Festival for best college vocal jazz groups. Jazz Singers won first place, C-Sus second and Vox 2 third place. In addition, the Jazz Singers were chosen for the Down Beat magazine award for best college vocal jazz group in 2008. Down Beat is a premier jazz magazine.

No funds for repair

The River Front Center - home to restaurants such as Togo's, Hula Dog and Kung Fu Fat's - lost $147,269 in revenue after it closed down for a week and a half to fix degraded plumbing underneath the floorboards and pump 25,000 gallons of water out from a crawlspace.

The center closed on Feb. 11, after Facilities Services discovered the water leak in a crawl space; they said the condition had gone unnoticed for months or possibly years.

Facilities said the center's closing was just a part of an ongoing problem of the small maintenance budget tackling Sacramento State's approximately $132 million worth of deferred maintenance projects.

Facilities and Utilities Director Linda Hafar said the availability of funds for maintenance to address these types of problems, such as the degraded plumbing, is about $600,000 a year.

"In other words, our budget is only 0.4 percent of the actual need," Hafar said. "This puts us in a situation that we can only afford to repair what breaks or comes to our attention as already broken."

According to the Reserves Interim Policy, emergency reserves can be used as a funding source for emergency repairs or replacements.

"If there are no reserves, then we will have to delay some other repair to another year," Hafar said.

The River Front Center's repairs on the wastewater leak were completed mid-afternoon on Feb. 24.

Problem remains for evals

Sitting on the second floor lobby of Lassen Hall on March 9, senior criminal justice major Cory Lubell waited to hear if he would be able to graduate in May.

Lubell finally decided to see an evaluator after he hadn't received any notification. He found out he was three units shy of graduation.

Late graduation evaluations have plagued seniors across Sac State for some time. Many have received their graduation evaluations past the Feb. 20 deadline, the last day to register for spring 2009 classes.

Approximately 3,700 students applied to graduate after the spring or summer semester. On March 11, information from the Office of Enrollment Management showed that half the number of graduation applications have been completed.

Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Edward Mills acknowledged the problem and attributed it to the university's new computer system, the Common Management System.

CMS is the CSU's systemwide transfer to the PeopleSoft software application. Mills said the new system allows all the universities within the CSU system to communicate easier.

"In a nutshell, the university gained a lot of advantages from the system," Mills said. "In other areas, we didn't like with graduation evaluations."

He said over the last 15 years, Sac State graduation evaluators have customized the software to make information, such as a student's general education courses, major courses and any transfer units easier to access.

When the university switched to PeopleSoft in fall 2007, it lost all of its customized software, making it harder for evaluators to find student information.

"We used to be able to do 20 to 25 grad evaluations in an hour," Mills said. "Now we can only do about four to six in an hour."

Other Northern California universities are not experiencing the same problems with evaluating graduates.

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Associate Vice President of Enrollment Planning at San Francisco State University Jo Volkert said they are not experiencing any backups in their graduation evaluations.

She said San Francisco State has not implemented CMS, and will not do so until 2013.

Communication Studies Chair Nick Burnett said he meets with a few students each year who receive their evaluations late and find they're missing units.

"I see people all the time who say they're graduating in four months, and it's the first time they've seen an adviser," Burnett said. "It sends chills down my spine."

Union sues CSU on wages

The State Employees Trade Council-United filed the lawsuit alleging that the CSU violated the state education code by not paying its facilities members at a rate required by law.

In June 200 the contract detailing what the CSU system pays SETC-United members expired. A new contract has yet to be signed.

Under the California State Education Code Section 89517, the CSU cannot set the minimum salary below the prevailing wage rates as listed in the law.

Prevailing wages are described as the basic hourly pay rate on public works projects based on the type of work and the locality of the work, according to the California Department of Industrial Relations.

SETC-United Business Manager John Connor said he wants union members to be paid fairly, and will use the law to do so.

"SETC has tried to bargain in good faith for over a year with no end in sight," Connor said in a press release. "We have no choice but to fall back on the state education code requirement."

Hallahan said some union members are being paid 28 to 35 percent lower than the prevailing rate.

"It might not seem like a lot when someone is only $8 or $9 behind in their hourly pay," Hallahan said. "But when it is expanded to months and years, the numbers really add up."

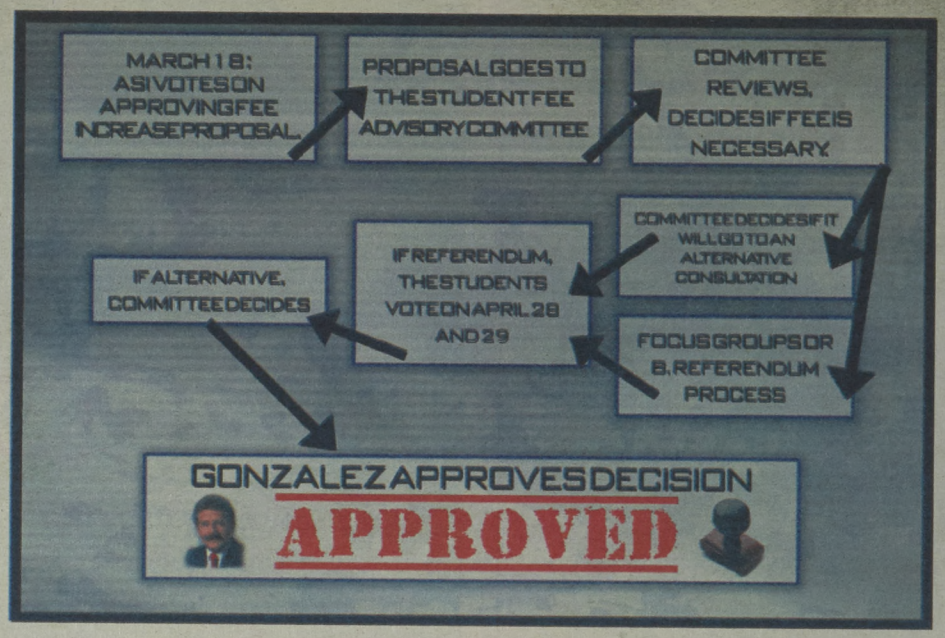
CSU Chancellor's Office Representative Teresa Ruiz said at the time that although it has not received the full lawsuit petition from SETC-United, it believes the lawsuit is without merit.

Sac State Associate Vice President for Public Affairs Gloria Moraga said the lawsuit is an issue for the CSU system as a whole, and it would not be appropriate for the university to make a lone comment at the time.

Athletics fee shows up again

Sac State's Athletics Department has a $500,000 budget shortfall and asked students to help out during the Associated Students, Inc., election.

On March 18, ASI board members voted to place a referendum on the April 28-29 ballot asking students to pay an additional $60 over the next three years to fund the athletics department.



Students have been paying a $62.50 fee in conjunction with tuition to fund the department.

Director of Athletics Terry Wanless said if the fee increase didn't pass, the department will seriously consider eliminating athletic programs.

Deputy Director of Athletics Bill Macriss said the referendum will increase the athletic fee roughly $18 during the 2009-10 school year, about $21 in 2010-11 and by approximately $24 in 2011-12.

Macriss said the department was counting on a steady increase in enrollment among students at the university.

He said the department didn't expect the cap in enrollment that has occurred within the last couple of years, which slowed down the funds it received from students.

Wanless said the retention and improvement of the athletic department is not just about winning games; it's about improving the image and culture of Sac State and adding additional value to students' degrees.

In the past, the athletic fee increases have led to controversy within the student government.

In 1986, ASI adopted a resolution to place a $13 increase on the student activity fee, with $8 going toward the athletic department.

In March 2007, David Burns, ASI's president at the time, gave the increased fund money to the athletic department without the consent of the board. The board quickly censured him.

In the end, ASI decided to uphold the commitment of the initial fee increase.

In 1995, the student government placed a measure on the spring ballot increasing the athletic departments portion of the student activity fee by $45; the measure passed.

For that increase, the department had to follow a contract that required providing free admission for students to sporting events, allocating funds to promote campus activities and having student-athletes achieve graduation rates similar to non-athletes.

In 1999, then-Vice President for Student Affairs Sean South had doubts about whether the athletic department had upheld the contract, and proposed legislation to renegotiate the contract.

"Basically, the students voted for this contract," South said in a May 1999 State Hornet article. "I just want to make sure the money is being spent properly."

Macriss said he remembered the incident and said the department quickly showed South and the board that it was in line with the contract.

The athletic fee did not pass referendum on the April 28 and 29 election.

Educational agencies audits

On March 24, The State Hornet decided to put Sac State to the test and see if it achieved transparency.

Operating under Californians Aware, a state government watchdog group, the Hornet executed a secret audit of 18 local educational agencies within the Sacramento area. The agencies included the University of California, Davis; the Los Rios Community College District; the county Office of Education; K-12 school districts throughout the Sacramento area and Sac State.

The Hornet sent 11 reporters to these agencies asking to view the statement of economic interest - also known as the Form 700. The auditors were instructed not to identify themselves as reporters, but instead enter the agencies as average citizens requesting the information.

The goal was to see which agencies were in compliance with the law and provided the requested documents within the legal time limit set by the law. On the same day, the auditors mailed letters to the respective agencies making a written request of several other public records. Under the law, the agencies were required to reply and send a letter of determination within 10 days of receiving the request. The letter of determination stated whether or not the files could be viewed and when the auditor could come by to see them.

Californians Aware is a nonprofit organization established to help journalists and others keep Californians aware of what they need to know to hold government and other powerful institutions accountable for their actions. Its mission is to support and defend open government, an enquiring press and a citizenry free to exchange facts and opinions on public issues. In short, Californians Aware will be a center for information, guidance and initiatives in public forum law.

Agencies speak out

Following a public records audit which several State Hornet reporters participated in, six of the 18 local public education agencies applauded the effort for seeking transparency, but were displeased with the audit's execution and the number of documents requested.

University Counsel for Sac State Edmundo Aguilar said the university intends to comply with the auditor's requests.

"The university respects the principles embodied in the California Public Records Act and strives to treat each request in accordance with those principles," Aguilar said

Other agencies, like the Sacramento County Office of Education, said it receives public information requests from different individuals quite often. Communications Director Tim Herrera said he felt the request was not clear and the requester was not patient enough.

"It's unreasonable for the auditor to walk in and expect the documents to be sitting there ready for them," Herrera said.

Natomas Unified School District Superintendent Steve Farrar was very pleased with the responsiveness of his staff, but was uncomfortable the auditor did not get exactly what he was looking for at the time. After speaking with his staff, Farrar said the staff thought the auditor was requesting documents the staff had to sign, not signed forms that are turned into the county.

- Compiled by Catherine Robledo

Agency	Legal Grade	Service
San Juan	B-	A+
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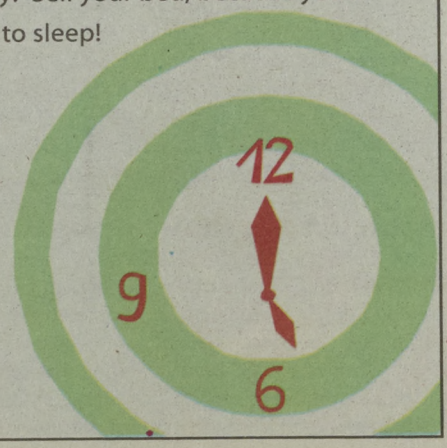
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ASI members busy this summer

By Julia Baum
jbaum@statehornet.com

Although student elections are over and the spring semester comes to a close, the work has not ended for members of Associated Students, Inc., as they prepare for the ASI administration in the fall.

Roberto Torres, who will officially become the new ASI president on Friday, said he has several ideas for the student government next year, but is uncomfortable making specific plans until he has input from other board members.

Though the board will not complete its formal plan until members meet at the end of summer, Shawn Smith, director of graduate studies, said ASI needs to stay active in its lobbying efforts at the Capitol and continue its involvement with the California State Student Association to help fight possible future budget cuts.

"Considering the current budget situation, ASI will have an uphill battle, but with continued effort, we should be able to minimize potential budget cuts," Smith said.

Smith said student representation in the Student Fee Advisory Committee, Strategic Planning Council and the University Budget Advisory Committee will continue to be critical for ASI next year.

"ASI will be looking to fill committees to ensure that students are well represented on the campus level," Smith said.

ASI Executive Director Pat Worley has no idea what projects or goals ASI will be working on specifically next year, but she said that the student government will continue to work on making itself a source of student involvement on campus.

"We have a really clear mission which is to provide experiential learning, leadership development and service to our students, so I can say that with 100 percent confidence," Worley said.

Worley said the board's plans for next year cannot be finalized until all new elected board members go through a review process. This will ensure that they have met all of the eligibility requirements to take office and the new board is official.

"That body of students needs to collectively come together and decide among themselves what are going to be their priorities and focus," Worley said.

Once the new board is official, it may then create a formal plan for the school year; the outcome of that plan will depend on the outcome of ASI's annual end-of-summer retreat.

Board members gather before the fall semester begins to bond and spend time familiarizing themselves with the other members' agendas. Though the destination this year is still to be announced, in previous years they have gone to Saratoga and Camp Gualala. Torres said that once Smith is officially in office, he will be responsible for coordinating their trip.

Torres has enjoyed several past retreats and spoke fondly of them.

"We get the chance as the board of directors to kind of bond with each other," Torres said. He thinks the retreats allow board members to find out how they need to work with each other next year in order to make ASI grow and become more successful.

"The retreat is really important for kind of dictating how the year's going to play out." Torres said.

He thinks that because work relationship dynamics among board members can affect the development of projects that the retreats play an important role in helping them govern effectively.

However, it will be all back to business when the board returns to campus and will be facing the obstacle of how to provide services to students in the face of several measures rejected in the election.

Marshall Wilson, senior business marketing major, said he voted in the election for more funding for Recreation Sports and the Athletics Department because he would like to see more sports opportunities on campus.

"I used to go to (Arizona State University) before and…they're really big on their sports over there," Wilson said. "Even though there is a lot of sports here, maybe just kind of revamping that."

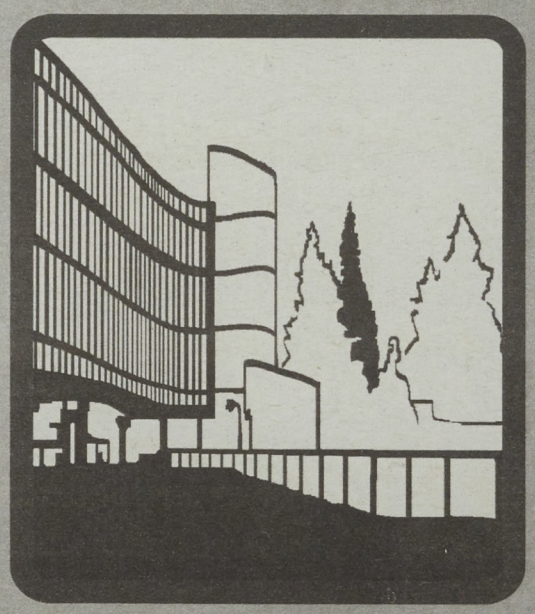
Ashley Smith, senior business management major, did not vote in the election but she would like to see additional parking for students.

Wilson thinks creating more parking would only work against ASI's goal to make the campus more green and pedestrian-friendly by unintentionally encouraging people to drive to school instead of walking, biking or using public transit.

"I don't drive here, so I walk or ride my bike - obviously parking isn't an issue for me," Wilson said. "I think if they want to make it…an actual college campus and not a commuter campus, that's one thing they could probably stomp on is the parking."

Contact Julia Baum in the News department at (916) 278-7248.

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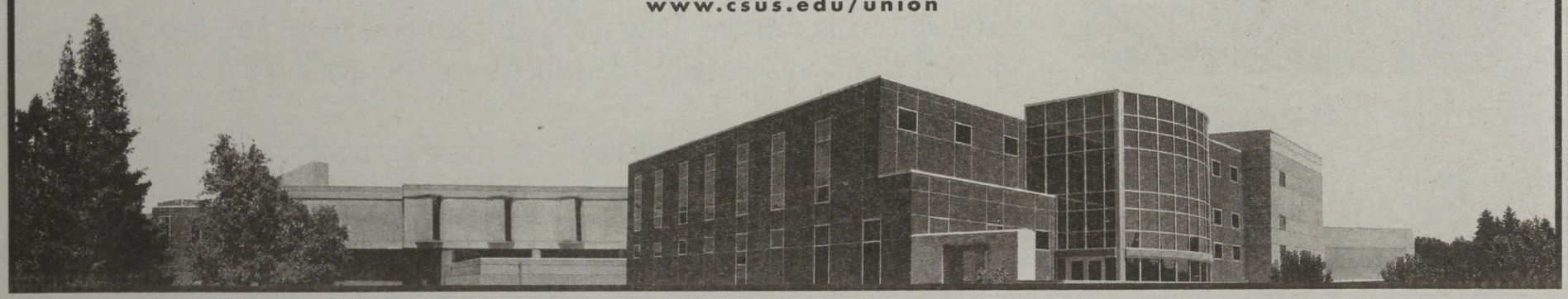
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Tips for surviving your first year

By Kyrie Eberhart
keberhart@statehornet.com

As an incoming freshman, you're probably feeling both the anxiety and excitement of going to college. One year ago, I was in your shoes - eager, wide-eyed and unsure about this strange new world.

To make the journey easier, here are some tips on how you, the freshman, can survive your first year at Sacramento State.

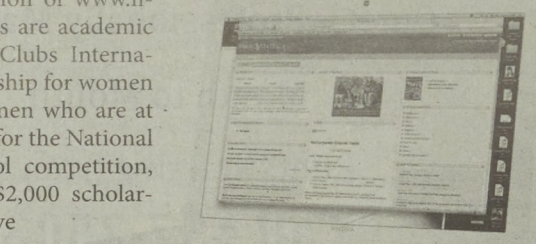
Before School Starts…

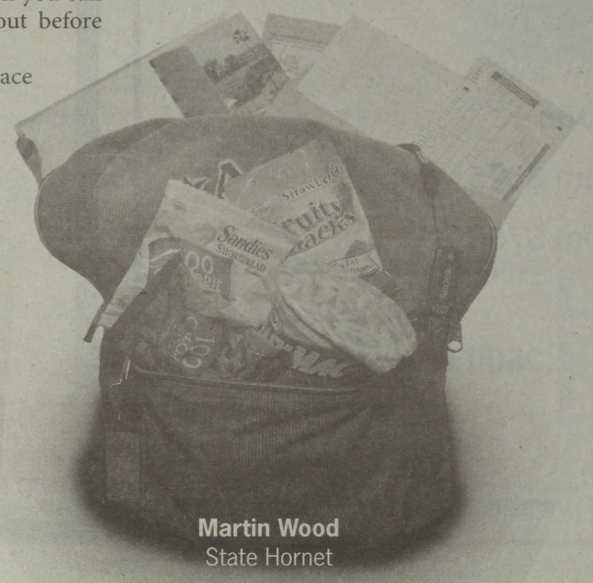
It's never too late to apply for scholarships. Loans can take a long time to pay off, and with a little research you may find you're eligible for scholarships you've never even heard of. For example, according to the "Unusual Scholarships" section of www.finaid.org, not all scholarships are academic or sports-related. The Tall Clubs International offers a $1,000 scholarship for women who are at least 5'10" and men who are at least 6'2". Knitters can apply for the National Make It Yourself with Wool competition, which awards $1,000 and $2,000 scholarships for the most creative knitted wool garments. The website www.scholarships.com can tell you more.

Sign up for your classes carefully. Amara Follett, freshman theatre major, suggested you sign up for a combination of general education and major classes.

"G.E. classes are mostly boring - if you add them with your major requirements, you'll have classes you're interested in too," Follett said.Speaking from personal experience, do NOT sign up for more classes than you can handle. You will burn yourself out before you know it.

The bookstore is not the only place to get your textbooks. The first $200-$500 you spend may go toward school books alone, and buying them at the school is expensive. If the student is a bit of a penny-pincher, like I am, here's a tip: if you don't mind secondhand books, a majority of them can be found at online market places like Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble. Sometimes you can get them at half the price you would pay at the school's bookstore. Be aware though that you need to order them as soon as you can because going to a class without bringing your books is like riding in a canoe without a paddle.





Martin Wood
State Hornet

Your Education…

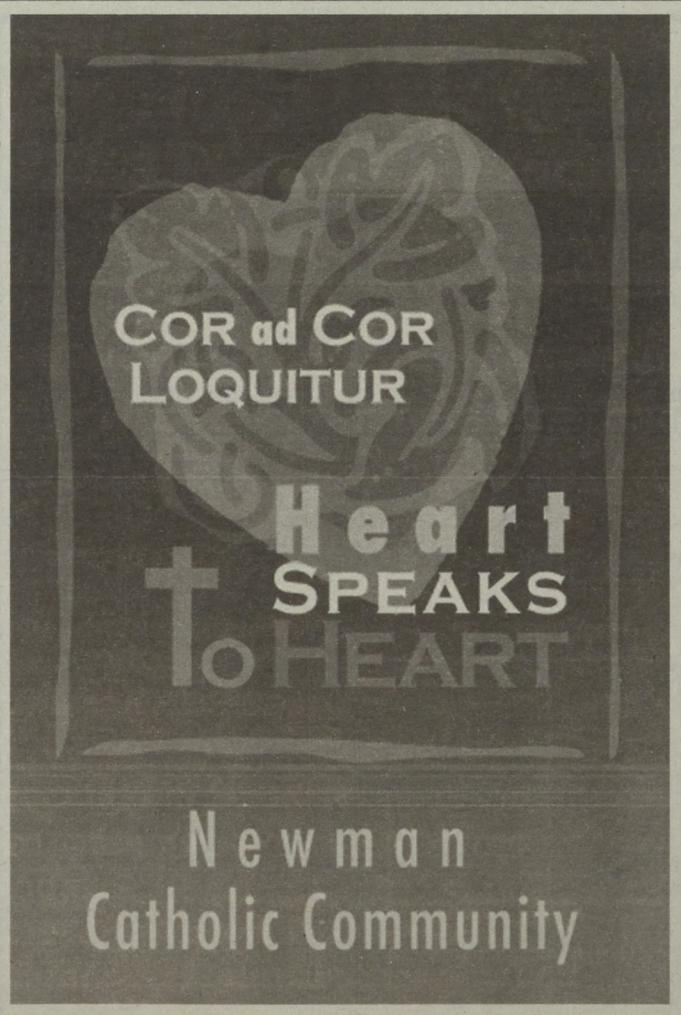
Do your work for classes. It may seem like a no-brainer, but the freedom of college is an alcoholic drink. Down it to excess, you'll end up doing something dumb. However, if you don't overindulge, you can still have a good time.

"Find a balance," said Resident Assistant Dion Warrick, junior business accounting major. "Focus on how much studying to do and factor it into your socializing."

Procrastination will kill you. One of the first things I learned - and what I'm still learning - is what you put off until tomorrow will end up as something you have to rush to finish. Think about the time that's available before the project or paper is supposed to be turned in and you won't want to pull your hair out the night before. You might have heard the same thing in high school, and it applies in college as well - perhaps even more so.

Most professors are more than willing to help you if you need it. They have office hours so students can come in to ask ques-

see SURVIVAL | page A25

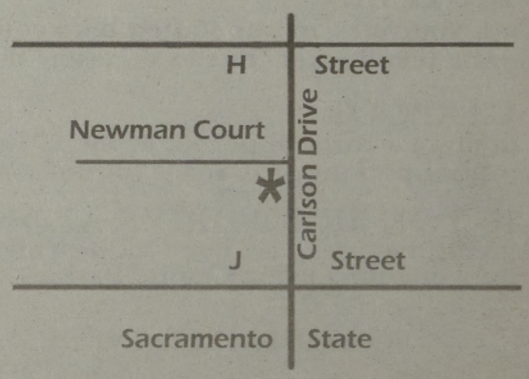


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SPRING SPORTS IN REVIEW

Tim Wheeler profile



Sacramento State junior outfielder Tim Wheeler was named to the 2009 Brooks Wallace Player of the Year watch list. The list names the top 64 collegiate baseball players in the nation.

Wheeler was a two sport star in high school and chose baseball over football, since he thought playing both sports would be too much.

He had offers to go to multiple colleges but picked Sac State so he could be close to family and play immediately. His older brother James is a former Hornet baseball player.

Wheeler plans on being a professional baseball player in a few years and has the full support of his family.

Softball draft

Senior softball players Jamie Schloredt and Izmena Cabrera were drafted by the Chicago Bandits of the National Pro Fastpitch softball league. The league only drafted 25 players from around the country this season.

Schloredt was the first catcher picked in the draft and selected 14th overall. Cabrera, Sac State's left fielder, was the final pick of the draft.

Schloredt is Sac State's all-time leader in batting average, home runs, walks and RBIs. Cabrera set the single-season RBI record with 53 in 53 games.

The Chicago Bandits are the defending champions in the league and is led by superstar pitcher Jennie Fitch.

Hornets sweep UC Davis in softball

Sac State's softball team hosted Davis for a doubleheader and completed a sweep of the Aggies at Shea Stadium. The Hornets won both games by one run.

In the first game Brittani Clifford pitched a complete game one-hitter. Jamie Schloredt hit a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the seventh to lead the Hornets to a 1-0 victory.

Third basemen Rachel Miles led the offense with a bases-loaded triple and finished the game with four RBIs to complete the sweep of the Aggies. The Hornets needed all four of her RBI's as they defeated the Aggies 5-4.

Hockey blowout

In the final home game of the season, Sac State's hockey team destroyed UC Davis 9-2. The Hornets built an early lead and the Aggies never caught up.

Assistant team captain Raymond Gsell completed a hat trick near the end of the blowout and received the traditional shower of hats being thrown on the ice.

The crowd roared the entire game as fans were treated to an unusual barrage of scoring. Demolishing a rival combined with heavy drinking contributed to the crowd's enthusiasm.

Sac State followed up the next day by ending the season at Davis and winning easily again 6-2.

Women make Big Sky

Sac State's women's basketball team made the Big Sky tournament this season, the third time since joining the conference in 1996.

The Hornets finished 7-9 in the conference and earned the fifth-seed in the tournament. Needing to defeat Northern Colorado in the final game of the season to clinch a playoff berth, Sac State pulled away in the second half and won 74-60. The Hornets hit seven of nine shots from beyond the arc after halftime.

Erika Edwards led the way with a double-double, scoring 16 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Charday Hunt scored 16 points as well - all in the second half - and grabbed eight rebounds.

Big Sky ambitions were curtailed after losing the first game to Idaho State in overtime 76-78.

Maria Meliuk

Freshman Maria "Pinky" Meliuk made an immediate impact for the women's tennis team at Sac State and won Big Sky Player of the Week four times this season.

The Belarus native is one of five tennis players recruited from Minsk by head coach Dima Hrynashka.

Meliuk has been playing tennis since she was a child and has traveled Europe playing. Her transition to America has gone well especially with so many of her fellow countrymen here at Sac State.

She will continue to play tennis in the summer in various tournaments to continue to test herself.

Big Sky tennis titles

Sac State's tennis teams swept their opponents to win their Big Sky titles at the Gold River Racquet Club. Both the men's and women's teams finished the season undefeated in the conference going 10-0.

The games went quickly as the men swept Eastern Washington Eagles 4-0 and the women swept the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks 4-0.

Kiryl Harbatsiuk, Anton Stryhas, Jason Smith, Holden Ching, Marko Starcevic and Artur Klimenka continued their season-long dominance against the Eagles without ever being in danger of losing.

Katrina Zheltoca, Melissa Valenzuela, Joyce Martinez, Clarisse Baca, Luba Schifris and Aileen Tsan completely blew away the Lumberjacks.

Rowing clinches Causeway Cup

With a win over Davis in rowing, Sac State secured the Causeway Cup for the 2008-09 season. The Hornets held the trophy from 2004-06 and Davis held the cup from 2006-08.

The Causeway Cup is a point-based competition where 18 sports add points based upon head-to-head wins. Davis had won the first 32.5 points before Sac State started its comeback.

The victory was achieved with losing streaks being broken by both the football team and rowing team. The dominance of the men's and women's tennis teams helped put the Hornets on the verge of winning the cup until the rowing team clinched it.

Muscatell leaves coaching position

Sac State's women's basketball coach Dan Muscatell has left his position to return to the University of Oregon. He will



be an assistant coach for the Ducks as he was through 1999-2003.

The Hornets improved its record every year under Muscatell's six-year tenure. In 2005 and this year, the team made the Big Sky Tournament. Going 7-9 this year in the conference was the best record in school history.

Off the court, Muscatell's players did well in the classroom. The NCAA gave the team the Academic Performance Program Public Recognition Award. It is the second year in a row the team has earned the honor.

Rowing wins WIRA

Bad weather couldn't stop the Sac State rowing team from winning the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association trophy this year. It is the third time Sac State has won the award in four years after winning it in 2006 and 2007.

The Hornets scored a total of 360 points, besting Gonzaga's 352 points and Davis' 347 points. All six boats: varsity eight, second varsity eight, novice eight, second novice eight, varsity four and novice four all advanced to the grand finals.

Only Sac State had all six boats advance to the grand finals this year, the first time it has been done in school history.



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Football gearing up this summer

By Mitchell Wilson
mwilson@statehornet.com

With spring practices behind them, members of Sacramento State's football team has summer drills ahead of them. They continue to work out on their own time to keep in shape for fall camp.

"Guys are working out hard," said Peter Buck, junior linebacker. "I think everyone kind of knows they're expected to be at a certain level and they've got to make sure to get themselves there."

Buck said he feels that the spring games have helped him to be more physical on the field.

"A little more explosion," Buck said. "A little more flexibility."

Even with a short break after spring ball, players know they have to keep working to bring that momentum into the spring season.

"Right now, it's work out whenever you can, come in strong and don't lose it," Buck said.

Players not working out will spend the summer healing from injuries. Numerous players missed spring games but everyone should be prepared for the fall.

"A couple guys just got unlucky, guys got fell on, stuff like that," Buck said.

"A lot of the injuries were just out for a couple weeks," said head coach Marshall Sperbeck. "The kids that were operated on in the fall are all coming back nicely off their surgeries."

Wanting to prevent further injuries, the annual spring Green and Gold Game was suspended in the first quarter due to rain.

"I'm thankful I didn't get those (injuries) but it's football so that's what happens in the game," Buck said.

Despite not being able to see several players on the practice field, the coaching staff was pleased with how the team performed during spring.

"I thought defensively our speed was real good," Sperbeck said. "We did a good job of getting to the football."

The coaches were impressed with the quarterbacks' offensive play.

"John Loeliger and Dominic Carmazzi both had good springs," Sperback said. "Jake Croxdale did some really good things."

Carmazzi is the younger brother of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Gio Carmazzi.

With progression in all positions, the coaches have good reason to be optimistic. Each position is deep even though injuries started to pile up.

"I think spring practices went well; we got better all the way through," Sperbeck said. "I'm very pleased with the outcome of how things finished up and hopefully that gives us a good springboard into fall practice."

Inconsistency was reduced throughout the spring and will help lessen mistakes that occur in the fall.

At wide receiver, the team plans on having at least 12 players. No player will play on offense and defense, but many will play multiple positions. Many will get a chance to play their main position plus special teams.

Junior Ronald Richardson and sophomore Chase Deadder have had good games at wide receiver, and junior Kenslow Smith has had good plays at running back. Brian Heath had a good spring playing tight end and also plays long snapper.

Even with great games in practice, every player is going to have to earn his spot during these sessions as nobody is a guaranteed starter.

Coaches will spend the summer watching film of spring games to correct problems.

Contact Mitchell Wilson in the Sports department at (916) 278-4155.



File Photo State Hornet

The Sacramento State football team won the Causeway Classic in fall 2008 for the first time in eight years and first winning season in 10 years.

Volleyball looking ahead to fall

By Mike Mital
mmital@statehornet.com

The Sacramento State women's volleyball team is looking to improve after a 10-23 campaign last fall.

With several of the team's key players returning for another season, the Hornets will have a roster full of experienced players in 2009. The team played well toward the end of the regular season, knocking off first place Portland State to qualify for the Big Sky Conference Tournament. However, the effort was not enough to continue the team's run of six consecutive Big Sky Conference Volleyball Tournament championships. In the quarterfinal round of the tournament, the Hornets were ousted by Northern Colorado, 3-1. Head coach Reuben Volta is optimistic that the team will be much improved with a year of experience under its belt.

"I think (the season) ended pretty successfully with us making the conference tournament based on how slow we got started. But we were really, really young last year. We obviously got off to a rough start. But I was really happy how we ended up beating basically the first place team (Portland State) in the last week to make it into the conference tournament," Volta said.

The team recently finished its spring practice sessions. Typically, spring practice is a time for players to sharpen their individual skills and work on conditioning. The Hornets were able to assemble the whole time for the practice sessions, a luxury the team did not have a year ago when only five players would be available on some occasions. During the off season, the team has been working hard to improve on attacking on the offensive side.

"Our strengths are going to be our quickness and our ball control. We sort of changed the offense to make it faster. So I think our quickness is going to help a lot," Volta said.

"One of the biggest things (we lacked) was experience on the court that we didn't have last season because we were so young. A lot of the freshmen got to play last year which is great. I think we just needed to work on our chemistry on the court. I think we really improved that this spring. We got a lot used to playing with each other," said senior Melissa Melcher, a top reserve for the Hornets last season.

Last season, the team was scheduled to play the majority of its games on the road, which made it difficult for such a young team. In the fall, the team is scheduled to play the majority of the games at home, which should be to the Hornets advantage.

The Hornets have been successful on the recruiting trail, where they were able to sign three talented high school players in Janelle Currey, Hannah Hettinga, and Sydney Kordic. With these young players in the mix, the Hornets will be loaded with talent next season.

Contact Mike Mital in the Sports department at (916) 278-4155.

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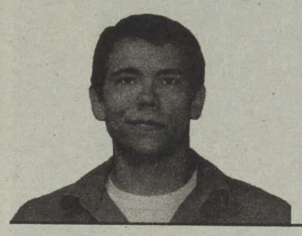
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Summer not all fun in the heat



Matt Rascher

The spring semester is finally over. Students all over the greater Sacramento region are sighing in relief. Sixteen weeks of grueling labor in the classroom have finally paid off, and we are rewarded with three months of freedom. Three months of freedom that for most will mean triple-digit temperatures, work and worst of all, summer school.

It is hot, sticky, suffocating and endless. Frankly, it is the worst time of the year. It is full of awkward tan lines, sunburns, nude beaches full of people who shouldn't be nude, broken air conditioners and high gas prices. Summer's only redeeming quality is the lack of school. Though for a lucky few, this has been ruined with summer school, which is otherwise known as the worst eight weeks out of the worst three months in the year.

So where did this most treacherous and vile time of year come from? According to a June 18, 2008, TIME Magazine article, summer vacation didn't always exist. In the time before the Civil War, schools operated on one of two schedules. Neither of those schedules contained a summer break. Rural children went to school during the winter and summer, leaving them able to help with spring planting and fall harvests. The other schedule had urban children going to school as much as 48 weeks out of the year, with one break per quarter.

Students now, however, do enjoy a much longer summer break than their predecessors.

Khazei Bauer, junior sociology major, doesn't have a lot of complaints about this vacation from school either.

"I love summer because I get to tan and swim and wear cute summer clothes," Bauer said. "Sometimes it does get a little too hot, but random summer adventures are way too much fun to let the heat bother you."

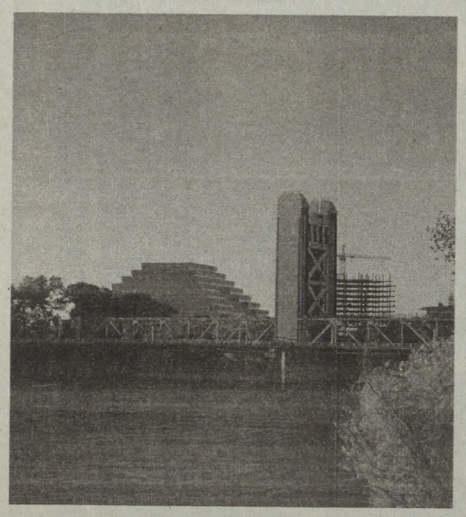
One adventure I am willing to take in the summer is going to the movies. They're air-conditioned, dark and a lot of fun when the alternative is horrible television reruns. Cinematic blockbusters are coming out left and right as well with new additions to the "Transformers," "Harry Potter" and "Terminator" franchises. New classics like Disney's "Up" and Spike Jonze's new movie, "Where the Wild Things Are" provide a relief to the dog days of summer as well.

Another way to avoid the heat is to go swimming. There is nothing quite as refreshing as jumping into a cool, pristine swimming pool in the luxury of your own backyard. That is, of course, if you have your own pool, or at least know someone who does. Maybe even a public pool is worth searching for because the closest alternatives to that are the American and Sacramento rivers. Swim in a clean inviting pool or the disgusting, brown, mosquito-infested drainage pipes of the central valley that are our rivers; it's your choice.

The second closest alternative would be Folsom Lake. While I would take the lake over either of the rivers any day, it still presents some cons. If you didn't get enough of the annoying, obnoxious, beer-drinking frat guys during the course of the school year, the lake is the place to go. Try to avoid killing too many brain cells though; you may need some once school starts back up.

The main reason I hate the summer is the heat. It pretty much ranges from unbearable to wanting to shoot myself in the face. Some people may argue that they prefer being hot to being cold, but in the cold you can always put more clothes on! There's only so many things you can take off in the heat, and some people should really keep their clothes on.

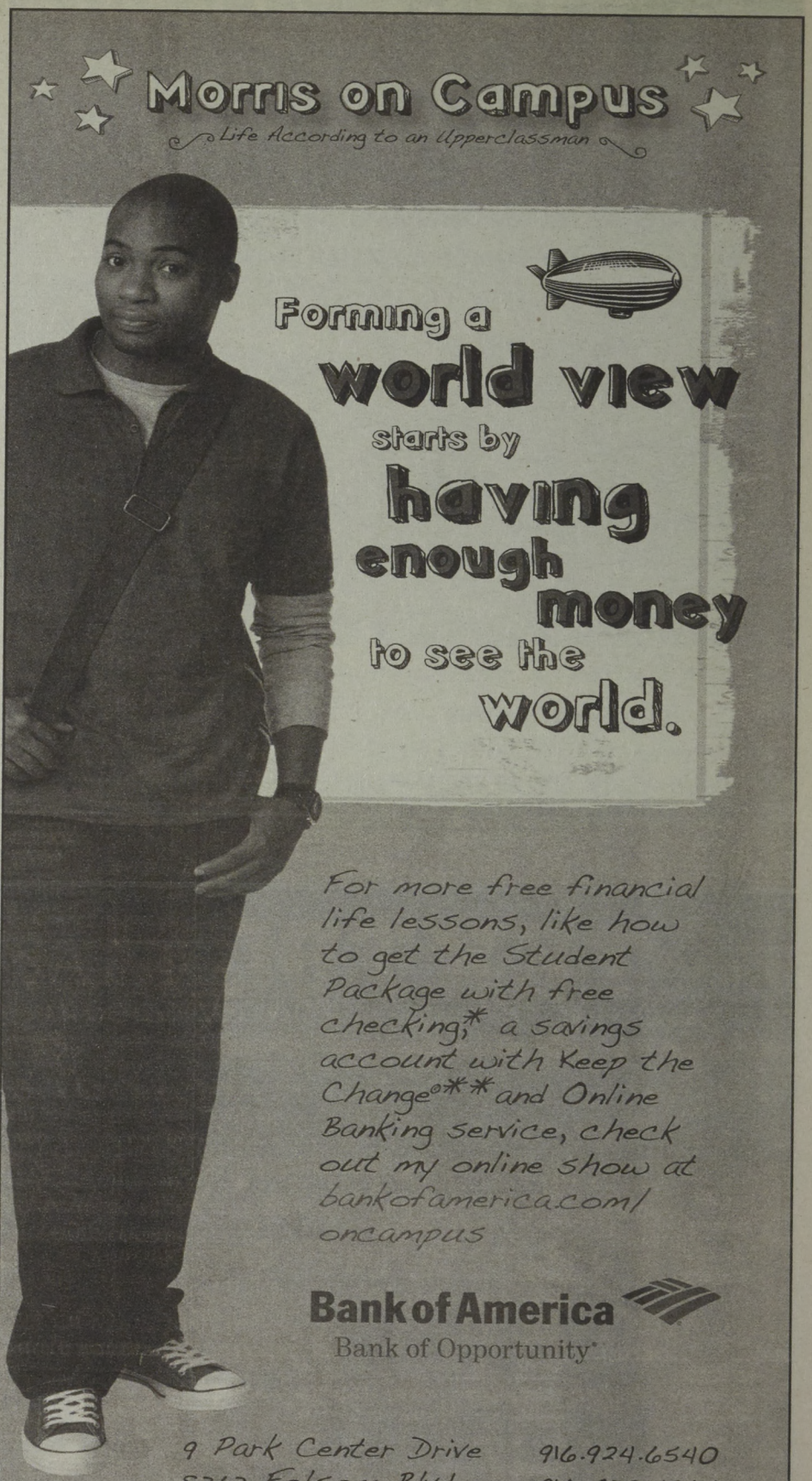
But maybe I should be more grateful for my summer hiatus. I only really go to school 32 weeks out of the year, and even then it's not like I'm always paying attention. A lot of the time I may be daydreaming about the weekend or how I can't wait for summer break to start. It is true, I do hate summer, but between that and school, it is by far the lesser of two evils. I can't wait for summer to start, yet I can't stand any minute of it.



iStock

The Sacramento River is an option for students to beat the heat this summer.

Contact Matt Rascher at mrascher@statehornet.com



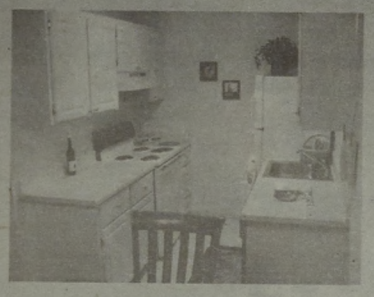
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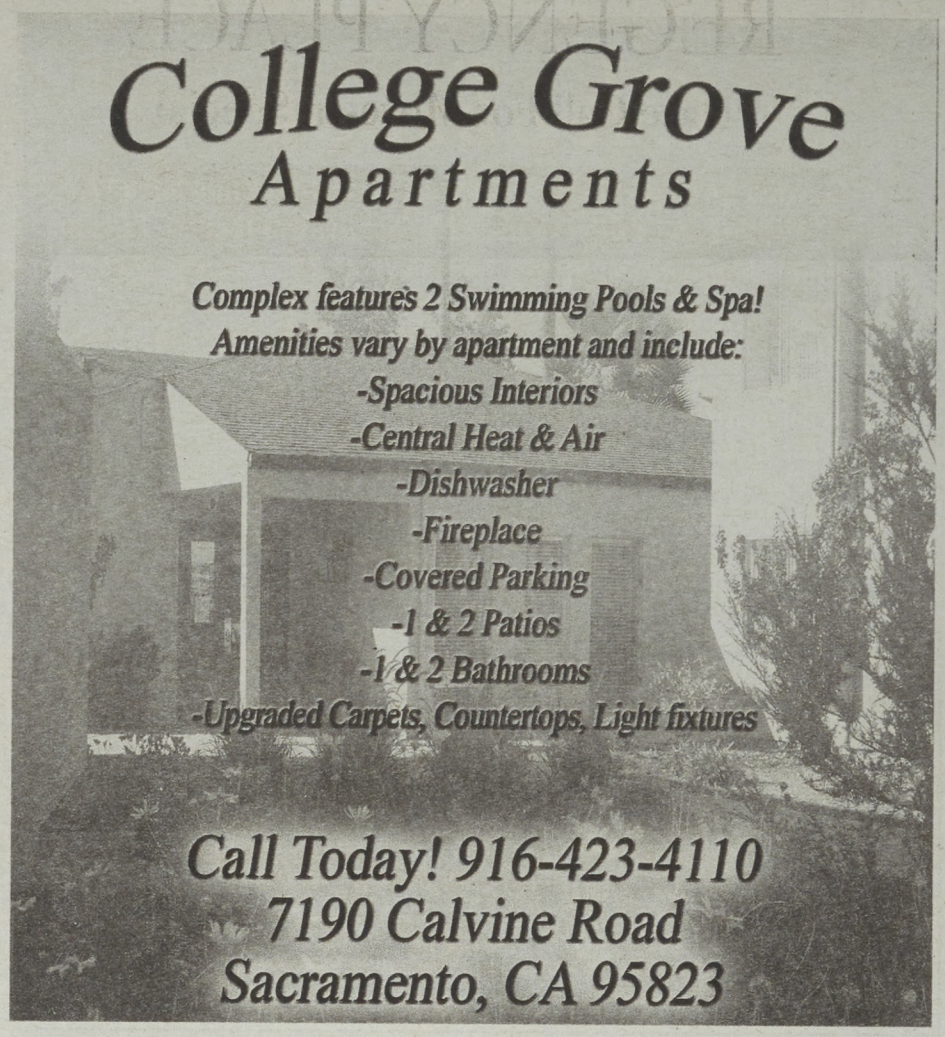
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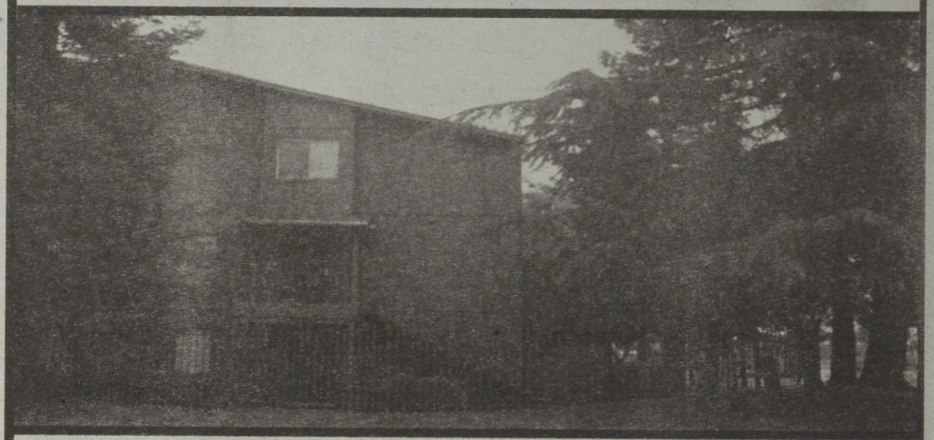
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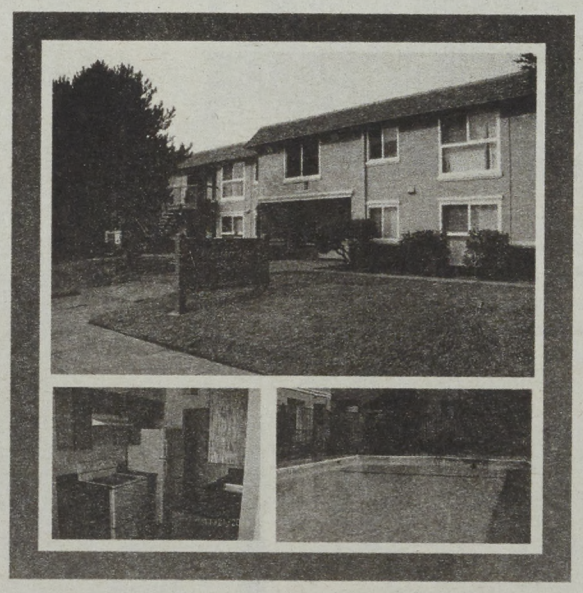


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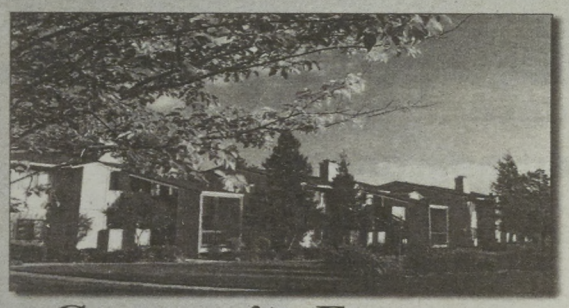
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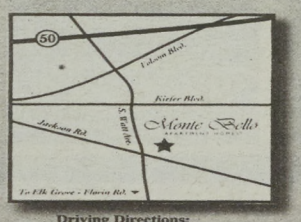
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'New girl' on the block has tires



Leidhra Johnson

My boyfriend is cheating on me. Her name is Schwinn. She's beautiful, tan and skinny. He said she's fast, fun and unlike anyone else. Any other bike, that is. You see, Schwinn is my boyfriend's fixed-gear bicycle.

What exactly is a fixed-gear bicycle? While most people think of them as those bikes with skinny wheels, there's more to them than that. Just because a bike is skinny doesn't mean it's a fixed-gear.

Fixed-gear bicycles are single-speed bikes without a free wheel. Because the gears are fixed, whatever the wheels do, the pedals also do. Therefore, these bikes do not allow coasting.

Fixed-gear bikes have become a widespread trend from city to city. Even Sacramento has developed its very own fixed-gear culture.

This fixed-gear culture is often associated with a trendy and rebellious youth. A Jan. 30 Sacramento Bee article even went as far as to say, "fixed-gear culture is about style, danger, simplicity, resistance to authority, commerce and more."

While this statement may hold some truth, it's far too broad of a generalization. Sure, some kids probably ride fixed-gear bicycles for style, danger and resistance to authority. But the majority of riders I have spoken with use them for much more.

"I ride fixed-gear as a fun alternative to a cruiser. It's simple, it's fun and my bike is simple. I don't need to have a funny-colored bike or do BMX tricks," said Pat Guild, a Sacramento resident and fixed-gear rider. "There's a difference between riding one as a trendy hobby and riding out of necessity."

Personally, I value comfort far too much to give up coasting, but I can see the appeal of a fixed-gear bicycle. These bikes are fast, easy to maintain, lightweight and affordable.

What I don't understand is the sudden boom in popularity of riding fixed-gear. Of course trends come and go without rhyme or reason, but this one is especially confusing to me.

While the bike itself may be simple, riding this kind of bike is far from easy. Although it is possible to put hand brakes on these bikes, most fixed-gear bicycles are brakeless. In order to stop, the rider must apply resistance to the pedals and skid to slow down. Call me crazy, but skidding to a stop sounds pretty scary.

"I'm too lazy now for fixed. I didn't like not coasting and having to dodge damn cars because I couldn't skid fast enough," said Cahil Bhanji, sophomore public relations major.

Bhanji is not the only one turned off by the danger and difficulty of fixed-gear bikes.



Leidhra Johnson State Hornet

Sacramento resident John Fleuti built his own fixed-gear bicycle. He now spends more time with his bike than with his girlfriend.

Some cities, including Sacramento, have even issued tickets to fixed-gear riders for riding without brakes. But these tickets have yet to stop the rising popularity of these bikes.

According to the Bee article, this "whiff of outlaw culture" is exactly what "makes fixed-gear bikes a fast-growing trend."

While I suppose the danger factor could be somewhat glamorous, those who are really dedicated to bike riding are certainly not outlaws.

Just like any other vehicle, it is up to the driver to be safe and responsible.

Contact Leidhra Johnson at ljohnson@statehornet.com

We all scream for local ice cream



Ashley Knight State Hornet

Big Spoon employee Sarah Hall serves up a pomegranate raspberry dessert.

BY VANESSA JOHNSON
vjohnson@statehornet.com

Summer time and the living is easy, and delicious; time for sweet smoothies and cold ice cream! Here in Sacramento, we have many delicious ice cream and yogurt locations where any student can enjoy a nice cold treat.

One of the most popular places here in Sacramento is Big Spoon Yogurt. Big Spoon is located at 3644 J St., and also at Market Square in Arden Fair Mall.

Here, students will be able to enjoy yogurt seven days a week between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Assistant Manager Deb Sansone thinks that Big Spoon has a lot to offer.

"There are a variety of toppings and you get to customize the yogurt any way you want to," Sansone said. "That is what makes the dessert so delicious," she said.

One of Big Spoon's most popular yogurt flavors is vanilla; however, it offer different flavors every week. You get to load however many toppings to your yogurt as possible to create your own creation.

Another great place in Sacramento is Leatherby's Family Creamery at 2333 Arden Way. This ice cream parlor is also open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Some of Leatherby's popular flavors are vanilla, toasted almond and Swiss milk chocolate. This location is known for being family-oriented and even hosting family ice cream parties.

It has a very cozy setting waiting for Sacramento State students to enjoy.

Ice cream is very popular here in Sacramento and Gunther's Ice Cream, located at 2801 Franklin Blvd, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Some of Gunther's popular ice creams are chocolate mint chip and peanut butter cup. Vanilla ice cream is also very popular.

All of these yogurt and ice cream parlors are great spots to check out in Sacramento.

They make for a great late-night treat.

Contact Vanessa Johnson in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.



Ashley Knight State Hornet

Two small sundaes wait to be served at Leatherby's Family Creamery.

Check these other places out this summer:

- **AR Ice Cream, 3830 Annadale Lane #14**
- **Bing Cherry Yogurt Ice Cream, 5751 Watt Ave, North Highlands**

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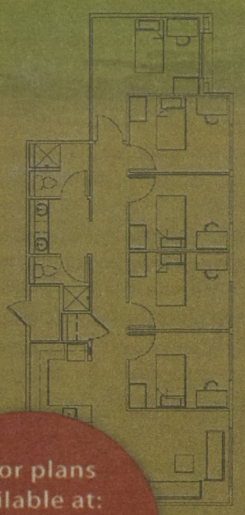
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SENIOR STARS AS MEXICAN PAINTER | APRIL 29



Above: Theater major Diana Tercero cries on stage during an emotional scene from Teatro Espejo's Frida Kahlo production at Cal Stage in midtown. Tercero plays Kahlo, an iconic Mexican artist.

Right: Actress Diana Mundunjano stars in a scene from Espejo's production. Kahlo was married to muralist Diego Rivera.

Shannon Schureman State Hornet

LAST SEASON MEET ENDS IN PEAK FORM | MARCH 18



Sophomore Amanda Blauvelt competes on the bars during a meet last semester at the Hornet's Nest. Gymnastics posted the highest score of the season.

Shannon Schureman State Hornet

Spring Semester in Photos

see **Photos** | page A24

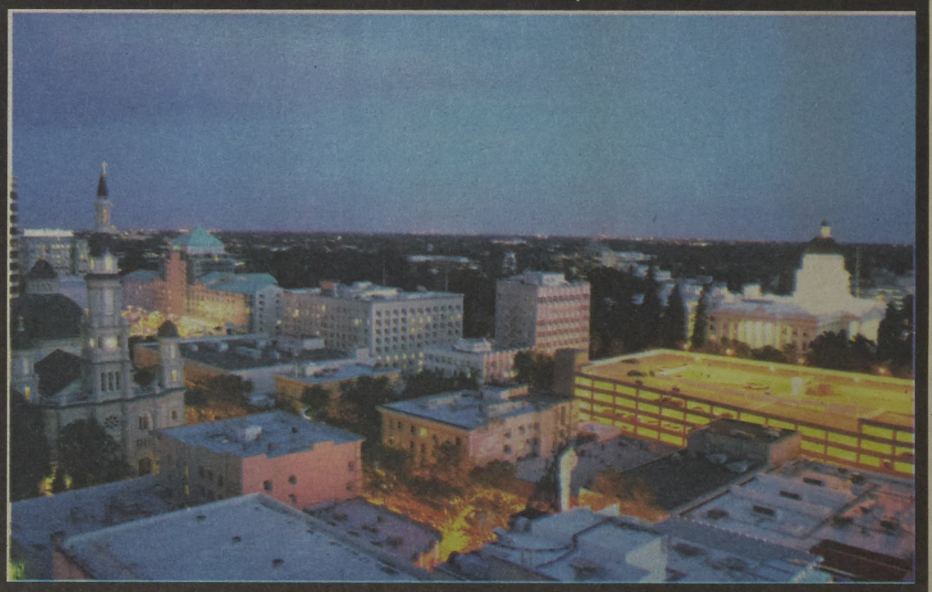
PUSH IT TO THE LIMIT WITH TRIATHLON | APRIL 15



Triathaletes must compete straight from one event to the next. The Sac State team comes together as a club, but each member competes individually during competitions and tournaments. The events include running, cycling and swimming.

Adalto Nascimento State Hornet

SACRAMENTO AT A GLANCE | MAY 13



From the suite at the Citizen Hotel, visitors can see a breath-taking view of the downtown Sacramento lights and building rooftops with the Capitol in the background.

Whitney Truderung State Hornet

SPRING SEMESTER IN PHOTOS CONTINUED...

LOVE, MARRIAGE RALLY AT CAPITOL | FEB. 18



Comedian Wanda Sykes speaks about how the passage of Proposition 8 personally affected her at the Love and Marriage rally at the Capitol on Feb. 16. The California Supreme Court voted to uphold the Nov. 4 decision to ban gay marriage on May 26.

Adalto Nascimento State Hornet

DANCE PROFESSORS DEVELOP SHOW | FEB. 18



Inertia DeWitt and her fellow dancers rehearse one of the pieces in "Connected/Disconnected," a production put on by Dangerous Lorraines Dance Theater. The show began at 8 p.m. on Feb. 20, and was directed by dance professors Lorelei Bayne and Melissa Wynn.

Shannon Schureman State Hornet

SAC STATE FINISHES IN 4TH AT TOURNEY MARCH 25



The 17th annual Capital Classic took place March 19-22 at Shea Stadium. Cal Poly took first in the tournament, while Sac State finished 4th with a 2-2 record.

Adalto Nascimento State Hornet

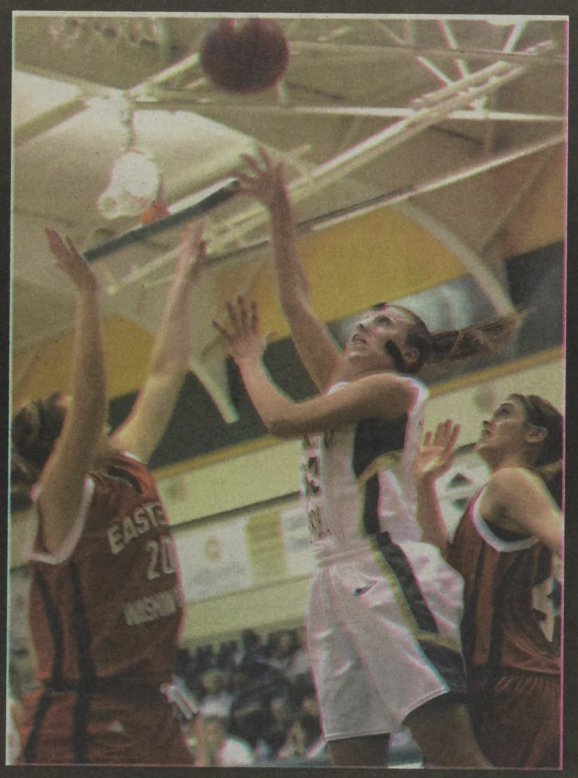
MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT MAY 6



A Native American dancer represents a cultural dance at the 6th annual Multi-Cultural Night on April 30. The event was held in the University Union and was hosted by Epsilon Sigma Rho.

Ashley Knight State Hornet

'DOGFIGHT' FOR BIG SKY TOURNEY FEB. 11



Junior Erika Edwards tries for a shot against Eastern Washington during the Feb. 5 game. Tied for 4th in the Big Sky, Sacramento State dukes it out with six other teams for a tournament berth.

Shannon Schureman State Hornet

Survival: Don't forget to relax

Continued | page A11

tions. It may help in the long run to get to know your professor and for your professor to know you. There is a way to find out which professors are the best for things like easiness, clarity, interest and helpfulness.

"I go to ratemyprofessor.com and look at the teachers there when I'm picking classes, because it kind of gives you an idea about what to expect," said Desiree Sayles, freshman kinesiology major.

Your Social Life…

Some of the freshmen might be living in the residence halls. At about $1,000 a month, it might be too expensive for some students. However, if you can afford it, residence halls are a good experience for your freshman year. Students are surrounded by their peers outside of classes, and sometimes you find your closest friends while living there.

Lauren Pascual, freshman forensic biology major, gave this inside tip about the residence halls: "If you can, get a dorm near the bathroom. Because it's really annoying having to walk from your room to the shower if it's a long way off."

Although studying is encouraged, all work and no play is no fun.

"Socialize and be outgoing, otherwise you'll be lonely," said Rachel Lawson, sophomore kinesiology major.

Sac State has a variety of clubs, groups, organizations, athletic teams, fraternities and sororities that students can go to. A list can be found at www.al.csus.edu/students/clubs.

And another thing…

Sacramento is a big city, but that doesn't mean it forgets its college students. A Sac State OneCard can get you on city buses and the light rail for free. A variety of places with student discounts can be found around the university. On the corner of J Street and 57th Street, Opa! Opa! offers a 10 percent discount to students who show their OneCard. Cupcake Craving, on the corner of Arden Way and Howe Avenue, gives a 15 percent discount. A list of places can be found at www.csus.edu/studentacivities.

A student's college experience is a time to learn and grow as a person. For freshmen, this can be a scary thing. The good news is that it isn't as daunting as people may lead you to believe. It's tough and takes work, but most do survive if they try.



Contact Kyrie Eberhart in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.



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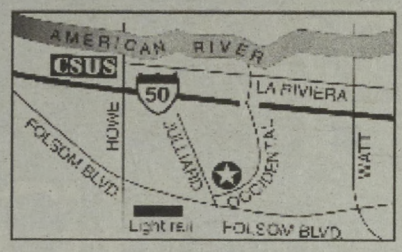
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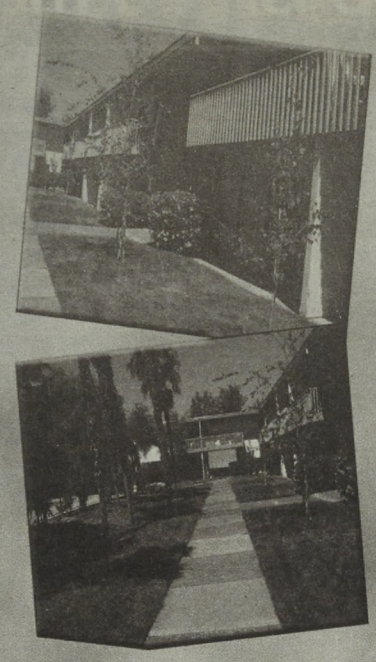
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